

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-16, with claims 1, 8, 10 and 11 being independent. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form in view of Applicants' election, which is outlined below. Claims 13-16 have been added to account for the multiple dependency of original claim 8. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has required election of a single disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits in this case. The Examiner alleged the existence of two patentably distinct inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-7 and 10¹, drawn to a method of manufacturing a structure with pores, classified in class 205, subclass 121;
and

Group II: Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12, drawn to a structure with pores, classified in class 257, subclass 414.

Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group II, claims 8, 9, 11 and 12,² with traverse.

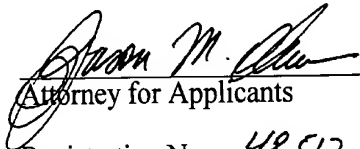
Under M.P.E.P. § 821.04, Applicants request rejoinder of the claims of Group I, which are directed to the method of manufacturing a structure with pores of Group II, in the event that the claims of Group II are allowed. If needed, Applicants request an opportunity to amend the claims of Group I to be commensurate in scope with claims allowed in Group II.

¹/It is Applicants' understanding that the Examiner erroneously omitted method claim 10 from Group I.

²/In view of the above amendment to the claims, new claims 13-16 should also be in elected Group II.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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